

MAR 13 2015

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONSULT THE NA KUPUNA TRIBUNAL TO FORM A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE HOW THE NA KUPUNA TRIBUNAL CAN BEST ASSIST THE COURTS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN IN MATTERS RELATING TO CHILD CUSTODY AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES.

1 WHEREAS, one of the most vital resources to Native  
2 Hawaiians are their children; and

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4 WHEREAS, it has been reported that approximately fifty  
5 percent of the foster care cases under the jurisdiction of the  
6 Department of Human Services involve Native Hawaiian families;  
7 and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the practice of hanai exists within the Native  
10 Hawaiian culture to address the foster care of children; and

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12 WHEREAS, various regional groups' kupuna have organized the  
13 Na Kupuna Tribunal to represent them as a whole; and

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15 WHEREAS, kupuna groups have assisted in family court  
16 matters involving the foster care and hanai of Native Hawaiian  
17 children; and

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19 WHEREAS, kupuna groups do not presently have an official  
20 role in family court matters involving the foster care and hanai  
21 of Native Hawaiian children; and

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23 WHEREAS, the Na Kupuna Tribunal has demonstrated success in  
24 past experiences of assisting family courts, in Hawaii and on  
25 the mainland, in matters regarding the foster care and hanai of  
26 Native Hawaiian children; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that it is worthwhile to  
29 determine how the Na Kupuna Tribunal may best assist family



1 courts in matters of the foster care and hanai of Native  
2 Hawaiian children; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
7 Human Services, in consultation with the Na Kupuna Tribunal, is  
8 requested to convene a working group to:

- 9  
10 (1) Determine how the Na Kupuna Tribunal can best assist  
11 the courts and Child Protective Services regarding the  
12 placement of Native Hawaiian children who have been  
13 removed from their homes;  
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15 (2) Determine how the Na Kupuna Tribunal can best assist  
16 Native Hawaiian children who have been removed from  
17 their homes; and  
18  
19 (3) Review the manner in which courts handle child custody  
20 cases involving Native Hawaiian children; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include  
23 representatives of various stakeholders, including:

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25 (1) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;  
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27 (2) The Hawaii Foster Parent Association;  
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29 (3) The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition;  
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31 (4) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;  
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33 (5) The Attorney General, or designee;  
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35 (6) Hawaii Community Action Program, Leeward District;  
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37 (7) Na Kupuna O Wai'anae;  
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39 (8) The Legacy Coalition;  
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41 (9) Na Kupuna O Kahana;



(10) Na Kupuna O Kekaha;

(11) Na Kupuna O Maku'u;

(12) Hawaii State Bar Association;

(13) EPIC Ohana;

(14) Partners in Development Foundation;

(15) Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center;

(16) Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs;

(17) Honolulu Police Department, Wai'anae community liaison;  
and

(18) Any other individual or organization the Department of  
Human Services deems necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
Services submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty  
days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016 on  
the findings and recommendations of the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be terminated  
upon adjournment sine die of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chief  
Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court; Attorney General; Director  
of Human Services; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Hawaii Foster  
Parent Association; Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition; Hawaii Youth  
Services Network; Hawaii Community Action Program, Leeward  
District; Na Kupuna O Wai'anae; The Legacy Coalition; Na Kupuna O  
Kahana; Na Kupuna O Kekaha; Na Kupuna O Maku'u; Hawaii State Bar  
Association; EPIC Ohana; Partners in Development Foundation;  
Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center; Association of Hawaiian



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1 Civic Clubs; and Honolulu Police Department Wai'anae community  
2 liaison.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
  
  
  
  
  


